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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

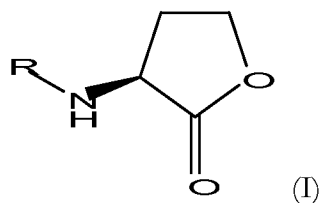
Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kelly McClellan on 7/28/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A method of screening for a substance that inhibits acylated homoserine lactone, comprising

(i) culturing animal cells with a test substance in the presence of acylated homoserine lactone represented by formula I:



wherein R is C₄₋₃₀ linear or branched acyl, which may be substituted;

(ii) detecting ~~one or more of (a)~~ phosphorylated-Akt, wherein increased phosphorylation reflects inhibition of acylated homoserine lactone, ~~(b) apoptosis, or (c) caspase activity, wherein the apoptosis or caspase activity is modulated by Akt and wherein decreased apoptosis or decreased caspase activity reflects inhibition of acylated homoserine lactone;~~ and

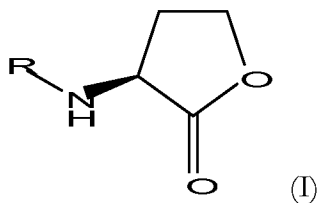
(iii) identifying the substance as one that inhibits acylated homoserine lactone.

Claims 5-7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). A kit for using in the screening method of claim 4, comprising the following elements:

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a) an acylated homoserine lactone represented by formula I:



wherein R is as defined above,

b) an animal cell, and

c) ~~a means for measuring Akt activity~~ an anti-phosphorylated Akt antibody.

Claims 9-13 (Cancelled).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDON J. FETTEROLF whose telephone number is (571)272-2919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms can be reached on 571-272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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